

these CTRs were on recurring customer transactions that were eligible for exemption for filing under existing rules.

Unfortunately, the current process by which a financial institution can exempt seasoned customers is rarely invoked because it is difficult to understand, needlessly cumbersome, and subject to redundant renewals.

The filing of these superfluous forms imposes an unnecessary cost on both the financial services industry and the law enforcement community.

With respect to the financial services industry, according to data released last year the number of CTRs filed on an annual basis now tops 13.1 million. Even FinCEN's conservative estimate of around 25 minutes per report for filing and recordkeeping indicates the banking industry as a whole devoted about 5.5 million staff hours to handling CTRs in 2005.

Based on a survey by the American Bankers Association, the industry paid around \$187 million in wages for this staff time.

A typical bank with \$2 billion of assets filed 1,400 CTRs in 2005. These filings took 583 staff-hours, with 438 of the staffhours simply to report on long-standing customers.

With respect to the law enforcement community, not only do these superfluous reports add nothing to its efforts, they actually make it more difficult for the law enforcement community to track suspicious activity by requiring it to wade through millions of pages of unnecessary paperwork.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, and FinCEN have all recommended that the number of CTRs be reduced by 30 to 40 percent by simply exempting large well-established customers or so-called seasoned customers.

In 1994, the GAO published a report which concluded, based upon an extensive analysis of CTRs, that the volume of reports could be substantially reduced without jeopardizing law enforcement priorities. According to that report, in 1993 the IRS, which administers the CTR program, stated that 30 to 40 percent of these reports of routine deposits by large, well-established retail businesses have no likelihood of identifying potential money laundering or other currency violations.

William Fox, who headed up FinCEN from 2003 to 2006, testified as follows before our Committee:

We know that some of the currency transaction reports filed by financial institutions are of little relevance in the investigation of financial crimes. We also know that depository institutions, especially our community banks, identify the time and expense of filing CTRs as the number one regulatory expense. It is clear that our efforts to encourage the exemption of routine filings on certain customers has not brought about the reductions of filings that were sought.

H.R. 323 will reduce the number of CTRs by clarifying the exemption process, thereby freeing financial institutions from having to file CTRs for routine cash transactions with their long-time customers, i.e. supermarkets, fast food restaurants or warehouse stores. This will enable law enforcement to target its resources on CTRs where criminal or terrorist activity is suspected. Moreover, under the legislation, banks will still be required to report suspicious transactions engaged in by exempted businesses pursuant to the Suspicious Activity Reporting regime administered by FinCEN.

Let me close by thanking Chairman FRANK, Congressman HENSARLING, Congressman

MOORE, Congressman RENZI, Congresswoman HOOLEY, and Congresswoman MALONEY for all of their work on this legislation. Since this is the first bill that the gentleman from Massachusetts has brought to the floor in his capacity as Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, I want to congratulate him on his appointment, and tell him that I look forward to working with him to build on the record of bipartisan legislative accomplishments that our Committee has compiled over the past several Congresses.

Finally, let me also thank Former FinCEN Director Fox, who deserves a lot of credit for his work on this issue. I look forward to working with the Senate and the new FinCEN Director to ensure that this important legislation is signed into law.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 323, the Seasoned Customer CTR Exemption Act. This bill eliminates a no-longer-necessary regulatory requirement which increases the costs of doing business for hundreds of financial institutions and their customers who ultimately bear the cost of this regulation.

H.R. 323 provides long overdue relief for our financial institutions from the requirement of keeping records and filing reports called Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs) to the Treasury Department for any financial transaction valued in excess of \$10,000.00.

While the original purpose of the regulation, to identify suspected money laundering activities, was a commendable tool for Federal prosecutors, its utility has been adequately replaced since 1996 by the filing of Suspicious Activity Reports required by Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. The CTRs are no longer the primary tool to identify suspected money laundering activities but banks must still file these reports, unless an exemption is given by the Department to certain "qualified business customers." The exemption procedures, however, have been found to be difficult to understand, cumbersome and still required the banks to obtain annual renewals.

This legislation will allow by statute the Treasury Department to issue regulations that would permit depository institutions to apply for an exemption from the requirement to file CTRs on a "qualified customer." The bill defines a qualified customer as any business organized or incorporated under state or federal law that has maintained a deposit account with the institution for at least twelve months and engaged in multiple currency transactions otherwise subject to the reporting requirement.

An estimated 30 percent of the 12 million CTRs received by the Treasury Department were filed on recurring customer transactions that were eligible for exemption under the current law. This bill will relieve financial institutions of the costly and unnecessary requirement to file CTRs in those instances and allow them to file a one-time notice of exemption for each qualified customer.

The Department will still be permitted where justified to suspend, reject or revoke such exemption notices to assure that it performs its legal duties. It also requires the department to report back within 3 years of enactment on the effects of the bill.

This bill is an example of Congress taking appropriate action after reviewing a regulatory requirement that made sense when first enacted but which no longer is needed. Too

often, these burdensome requirements continue on the books to the detriment of our business community. Congress should continue to work with our business community to identify other instances of unnecessary regulations and requirements so that appropriate action can be taken.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 323.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 65

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 392) to provide for a circulating quarter dollar program to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 392

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act".

SEC. 2. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS HONORING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(r) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR HONORING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.—

"(1) REDESIGN IN 2009.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2) and subject to paragraph (6)(B), quarter dollar coins issued during 2009, shall have designs on the reverse side selected in accordance with this subsection which are emblematic of the District of Columbia and the territories.

"(B) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwithstanding

subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may select a design for quarter dollars issued during 2009 in which—

“(i) the inscription described in the second sentence of subsection (d)(1) appears on the reverse side of any such quarter dollars; and

“(ii) any inscription described in the third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the designation of the value of the coin appears on the obverse side of any such quarter dollars.

“(2) SINGLE DISTRICT OR TERRITORY DESIGN.—The design on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 shall be emblematic of one of the following: The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(3) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the 6 designs required under this subsection for quarter dollars shall be—

“(i) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

“(I) the chief executive of the District of Columbia or the territory being honored, or such other officials or group as the chief executive officer of the District of Columbia or the territory may designate for such purpose; and

“(II) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

“(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

“(B) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Designs for quarter dollars may be submitted in accordance with the design selection and approval process developed by the Secretary in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

“(C) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may include participation by District or territorial officials, artists from the District of Columbia or the territory, engravers of the United States Mint, and members of the general public.

“(D) STANDARDS.—Because it is important that the Nation's coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, the Secretary shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate design for any quarter dollar minted under this subsection.

“(E) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS.—No head and shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, and no portrait of a living person may be included in the design of any quarter dollar under this subsection.

“(4) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins minted under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

“(5) ISSUANCE.—

“(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, with a content of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

“(C) TIMING AND ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—Coins minted under this subsection honoring the District of Columbia and each of the territories shall be issued in equal sequential intervals during 2009 in the following order: the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(6) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

“(A) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF ADMISSION AS A STATE.—If the District of Columbia or any territory becomes a State before the end of

the 10-year period referred to in subsection (1)(1), subsection (1)(7) shall apply, and this subsection shall not apply, with respect to such State.

“(B) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF INDEPENDENCE.—If any territory becomes independent or otherwise ceases to be a territory or possession of the United States before quarter dollars bearing designs which are emblematic of such territory are minted pursuant to this subsection, this subsection shall cease to apply with respect to such territory.

“(7) TERRITORY DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘territory’ means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House pass H.R. 392, a bipartisan bill introduced by the distinguished gentlelady from Washington, D.C., Ms. HOLMES NORTON.

This legislation simply extends the very popular quarter coin bill to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

□ 1300

We believe that extending the program will generate the same cultural pride in the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories that is done in every State across the Nation. When it comes to American history and tradition, Washington, D.C., is second to none, and that is why I am pleased that the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has introduced this bill.

Citizens of other territories have made similar contributions and sacrifices. They, too, deserve the highest possible recognition and equality. That is why, in my opinion, extending the quarter program to include the U.S. territories is the least we can do to recognize the role that these great peoples and their cultures played in enriching American history.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise in support of H.R. 392, the District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar

Program Act. I want to thank Chairman FRANK, Chairman GUTIERREZ, and Ranking Member BACHUS for the Financial Services Committee's support of this legislation and for getting this important bill to the floor early in the 110th Congress. This is a little bit unusual that we are doing early, perhaps early enough to get it done in the Senate as well.

The legislation before us would extend the popular 50 State Quarter project to include coins honoring the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Madam Speaker, the 50 State Quarter legislation has proven to be a great success. It has reinvigorated coin collecting, has become an invaluable educational tool, and has so far contributed close to \$6 billion to the United States Treasury through seigniorage and the sale of products to collectors. With an estimated 140 million Americans collecting these coins, the State quarters have become the most popular coin program in the United States' Mint history.

Madam Speaker, expanding the program to include D.C. and the U.S. territories will further benefit the taxpayer and educate Americans about our Commonwealth. These coins are integral to the history of our country and educate children and tourists about the American way of life. This bipartisan legislation is supported by the members of the Financial Services Committee and has passed the House in every Congress since the 106th Congress. I am pleased that we have brought this much-needed legislation to the floor today and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who is an effective and tireless advocate for the people of Washington, D.C., and the author of this bill.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding and for his early work on this bill, and I certainly thank the gentleman from Delaware, who has worked on this matter with me, which now this makes the fifth time. Indeed, this is the fifth time, and I am grateful that the House has been willing to come back time and again, that we will pass a bill to afford the five insular areas and the District of Columbia a quarter bearing a design of their choice on the reverse side. Inadvertently these Americans were excluded from the 50 State bill affording this same right to the States in 1998.

We owe very special thanks to successive committee and subcommittee Chairs and ranking members of the Financial Services Committee. We especially appreciate the new chairman,

BARNEY FRANK, who reached out to us to put this bill for consideration by the House on the early suspension calendar.

Forty States have had their State designs on the reverse side of the quarter with four more States to be added before this year is ended. All the coins are minted according to the year each State ratified the Constitution of the United States or were admitted into the Union.

Although States have appropriate latitude, there are limitations as to what can be used as a design. According to the law, the Secretary of Treasury has the final approval of each design. The law gives clear guidance as to what is an acceptable design concept. Suitable design concepts include State landmarks, historically significant buildings, symbols of State resources or industries, official State flora and fauna, State icons, and outlines of States. Among the examples of suitable coins are many, New York's Statue of Liberty and the like.

This bill points out the importance of including all Americans in the symbols of American citizenship. The residents of the District and of the insular areas are full and equal American citizens. To leave them out of mere exercises of citizenship is to seem to deny the citizenship they revere and share with other Americans. The Americans who live in these areas have fought and died in our country's wars and have extraordinary records of service, particularly in the Armed Forces, in considerably larger numbers than many States. District citizens, in addition, pay Federal income taxes.

We in the Congress all represent proud Americans. There are, of course, significant differences between the States and the jurisdictions covered by this bill. However, qualification to be part of a program of quarter coins to commemorate congressional districts is not one of them. Under the Constitution all Americans are equal notwithstanding important differences in form, structure, and other significant distinctions. Today, by including all Americans, Congress avoids any appearance of differential or discriminatory treatment and any implication that these areas are colonies, never the intention when the five jurisdictions were not included in the original bill in 1998, as the House has made clear by repeatedly bringing this bill to the floor. Perhaps the other body this time is ready to grant us our citizenship.

Today, when our country is at war and faces unparalleled dangers, this bill is yet another example of our unity as Americans and our indivisibility in honoring all of our country's citizens. By repeatedly passing this measure, the House has made it abundantly clear that we are one country, and that our hope is that the Senate will join us.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gen-

tleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO).

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 392, the District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. I want to thank Chairmen FRANK and GUTIERREZ and Ranking Members CASTLE and BACHUS for their leadership on this.

This bill, introduced by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, whom I commend as well, would finally allow the District of Columbia as well as Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands the right to choose a design, which would be imprinted on the reverse of a quarter. Inadvertently these jurisdictions were excluded from the 50 State quarter dollar bill that gave each State their own coins in 1998.

I echo the sentiments of my colleagues. This bill recognizes the importance of including all Americans in the symbols of American citizenship. I am confident and hopeful that this bill will see swift congressional passage and then that the President will imprint his signature.

As Puerto Rico's sole representative in Congress of the almost 4 million American citizens who reside in Puerto Rico, it is my honor to acknowledge the significant contributions which Puerto Rican Americans have made to our Nation. In particular, Puerto Ricans have never failed in their proud patriotic commitment to their call of duty, defending this Nation and its democratic principles. Madam Speaker, Puerto Rican Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States in all wars and conflicts since 1917 to this day.

This bill's passage is long overdue. Its enactment would be an extremely meaningful way to honor these Puerto Rican Americans. It may seem like a small gesture, but our exclusion from this program undermines how faithful Puerto Rican Americans have been to this Nation and how we revere our citizenship and fellowship with all Americans.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the delegate from Washington, D.C. (Ms. NORTON) and ask unanimous consent that she be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, once again the bill to add the quarters representing the

District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands is before this body for passage.

And I want to thank Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member CASTLE, and my colleagues who have supported this in the past and our colleague ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for her persistence, which I believe is going to pay off in this Congress. The holdup in the past has been in the other body, but I believe we have a commitment to get it passed this time.

As often happens in the territories, not usually Washington, D.C., we were overlooked and left out when the bill authorizing the coins first passed and was signed into law. With the passage today of H.R. 392, we will fix that oversight, but I hope we can move to ensure that the territories are remembered and considered when any legislation is being written.

We will continue to work to that end, but today my constituents are looking forward to displaying an image on our coin that will convey a part of our rich history to our fellow Americans and people around the world, whether it would be General Budhoe, the slave who led the effort that resulted in our emancipation; the three women who are best known for having led the labor revolt of 1878; D. Hamilton Jackson, a judge, labor leader, champion of the free press, and actually the first delegate to Washington on behalf of the Virgin Islands; or any number of people or monuments that represent who and what we are when that is yet to be decided.

But, Madam Speaker, with the passage of this bill today, we will have begun the process, and the Virgin Islands will be ready to proudly join the States in this program.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 392.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa.

(Mr. FALOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 392, the District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act.

I want to commend my colleague from the District of Columbia for introducing this proposed legislation to include the District of Columbia and the territories by amending the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act that was made law since 1997. I want to commend the gentleman from Massachusetts, the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee; as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Alabama, for their leadership and support of this legislation. Madam Speaker, I also want to

especially thank the gentleman from Delaware, my esteemed friend, for his unwavering support of this legislation. For many years he has worked tirelessly with the sponsor of this bill, and I would be remiss if I did not thank the good gentleman from Delaware for his commitment to pass this historic legislation.

This important piece of legislation has been an ongoing issue for the past 8 years, Madam Speaker. All five congressional delegates are and were original cosponsors of this bipartisan measure. During the 107th Congress we introduced H.R. 4005, identical legislation that was unanimously passed by the House and was received in the Senate in 2002. In the 108th and 109th Congresses, the same legislation was unanimously passed with bipartisan support by the House. But, unfortunately, Congress adjourned before the Senate could consider the bills.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that we pass H.R. 392 and that the Senate will pass this legislation before the 110th Congress adjourns. H.R. 392 affords us an opportunity to recognize the special contributions of the residents of the good people of the District of Columbia and the territories.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

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Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 392, the District of Columbia and the United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commemorative Coin Program Act was passed, Madam Speaker, in 1997, and enacted as Public Law 105-124. It authorized the minting of 50 commemorative coin designs to represent the unique culture and history of each respective State. This is an unprecedented program by which the design of the United States quarter dollar changes five times each year for a 10-year period beginning in January 1999. The 50 States are honored under the current program in the order in which they were admitted into the Union. This program authorized the first change to the quarter since production of the bicentennial quarter in 1975-1976 and is meant to foster pride among citizens of each State, greater appreciation for the diversity of our Nation, and to instill an enhanced sense of national unity. By all accounts, Madam Speaker, this program has been a resounding success. However, it has excluded the territories.

H.R. 392 represents the fifth consecutive attempt, the fifth consecutive attempt to enact legislation to honor the Capital City, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. territories by including them in the 50 State Quarter Program.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who has persevered over all these years to try to get this piece of legislation through, and I also thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for his continued strong support for the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories to be included in this successful program.

I represent Guam, an island approximately 3,500 miles southwest of Hawaii. Guam, like the District of Columbia and the other U.S. territories, has unique attributes that too few Americans are aware of. In fact, it is all too common for Americans to be unaware of or misinformed about Guam's relationship with the United States and that its residents are duly U.S. citizens. I believe this record should be improved, and one way to accomplish this is to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the circulating quarter dollar coin program to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

The bottom line is that every time someone looks at the back of a quarter, they learn something about the State represented. Much can be learned about Guam and her sister territories and the District. In doing so, the curious American will learn more about their wonderful country in which they live and more about their fellow Americans with whom they share this bountiful land.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, just in closing I thought I would reference back to what I said in the opening, and that is that this particular program which is known as the 50 State Quarter Program, has made a profit, if you want to call it that, through what we call seigniorage of about \$6 billion for the Federal Government. How can that be? It is fairly simple: it costs about a nickel to make a quarter, and we essentially sell the quarters, if you will, for 25 cents; and that amount of money, that extra money is carried over, that 20 cents. And since none of these coins are being basically turned in because of all the collecting which is going on, this is money which the Federal Government can spend, it is called seigniorage, and it has worked out extraordinarily well.

This program not only honors and recognizes these very important entities that have been spoken to by their representatives here today, but also provides an opportunity for the Federal Government to continue to profit from this program, which will, by the end, end otherwise in the year 2008. So I would encourage everybody to vote for it.

I hope, to the distinguished woman from the District of Columbia, that the fifth time is good luck. We have had great luck here in the House; it is in the Senate that we seem to struggle a little bit, and hopefully we can get it done this time.

And let me make a point that I think is important. There has been a lot in the news lately about a delegate voting bill which some people here on the floor may be interested in. This is not that bill, and I am not either denigrating or advocating that bill today. But I think it is very important to understand what this is: it is just a clear recognition of those areas that have been left out of this quarter program that many of us think should be brought in and, for that reason, are very supportive of this legislation. Hopefully this is a bill which both political parties can be very supportive of when the time comes to vote on it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 9½ minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I cannot close without saying a word about the spirit in which the gentleman from Delaware has handled this matter. What is it, we are told 8 years. It was a quintessential moment of bipartisanship.

I was sitting in my office when the bill came to the floor, and staff came in and said the District of Columbia and the territories are not included in this coin bill. I ran to the floor and ran over to the gentleman. It is understandable, it is called 50 States, that it is easy to forget us I guess, and he assured us there had been no intention.

Madam Speaker, I had two choices. One choice was on suspension, as it is today, which was simply to ask my side to vote against it and it wouldn't have passed on suspension. The other side was to listen to what the chairman said, and what he said was that he would put this bill again on the floor. He, and for that matter his successor committee chairs and subcommittee chairs, has never wavered on putting this bill forward. Let us be clear that when we are talking about five times, we are talking about, shall we call them, the other body.

I point this out because I believe we owe the same reciprocal spirit of bipartisanship that, sir, you so kindly granted us. The fact is, this is such a small matter. That such a small matter can be so hurtful may not be understandable to others.

One way to understand it is the disproportionate service in the Armed Forces. I don't know why, but you have only to look at the statistics to be stunned by the disproportionate service in our Armed Forces of people from the District of Columbia and the insular areas. It is not because they during the period of the draft were more often drafted; it was a greater willingness to serve.

I want to say, Madam Speaker, in closing that a virtual unwritten rule of this House should be that no distinction not proscribed by laws ever be made among American citizens, particularly in the people's House. We will all be challenged, I hope shortly, on an entirely unrelated bill, not the bill that the gentleman from Delaware spoke of that is due to come to the floor on delegate voting, but yet another bill, a bill 200 years in the making, 200 painful years of service in the Armed Forces, of paying taxes without representation which are going to call Congress to account, especially my party, which has flooded this floor with statements of belief in the full voting rights of the people of the Nation's Capital.

To his great credit, Representative TOM DAVIS when he chaired the Government Reform Committee discovered a magic opportunity, that is the only word for it because it won't come again soon, that the State of Utah had barely missed getting a vote in the last census. And he came to me and suggested that we put Utah and the District of Columbia together just as Alaska and Hawaii came in the Union together, and precisely the only way we have increased representation in the House and the Senate, and that is through political balance.

It was an offer we couldn't refuse, but it took us 4 years of my negotiating with the Democrats who kept telling me what they wanted and Mr. DAVIS negotiating with Republicans who kept telling them what they wanted, and finally we got the bill through the Government Reform Committee 15-14. This is such an extraordinary bipartisan vote on a controversial bill, 15 Democrats, 14 Republicans voting for the bill, the Davis-Norton bill for a House vote. Not a vote in both Houses, my friends, a vote in the people's House, went to the Judiciary Committee, additional requirements made, they were fulfilled by the State of Utah.

Here, we have the most Republican State in the Union and a big city normally Democratic who come forward together, who are literally joined at the hip together, and say regrettably, although we thank the other side who took this almost to the floor, through two committees, didn't get it to the floor, my party has an obligation written in miles of rhetoric, written in their platform over many decades to bring the bill for the full vote for the residents of the District of Columbia to this floor.

I congratulate my colleagues on the other side who almost brought us home. Now, the challenge is to those who got up and pointed their finger at the other side about not doing enough, the finger is now pointed at us and the time has come. While this bill has nothing to do with that, if you represent the District of Columbia, if you were second per capita in Federal income taxes, if you had gone to Arling-

ton during this war, if you had sat in churches during this war, then you would understand that any opportunity to remind this Congress, including my side, that the moment of truth has come and it has got to come in the 110th Congress for a seat for the District of Columbia this year. Meanwhile, we begin with an entirely non-controversial "yes" symbolic bill. Let this bill pass the House.

I thank the Speaker, and I particularly thank my good colleagues for persevering with us. I hope we have set the tone for the 110th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 392.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STREAMLINING OF SAFETY ACT AND ANTI-TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT PROCESSES

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 599) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to streamline the SAFETY Act and anti-terrorism technology procurement processes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 599

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STREAMLINING OF SAFETY ACT AND ANTI-TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT PROCESSES.

(a) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that, in addition to any personnel engaged in technical evaluations that may be appropriate, a sufficient number of full-time equivalent personnel, who are properly trained and qualified to apply legal, economic, and risk analyses, are involved in the review and prioritization of anti-terrorism technologies for the purpose of determining whether such technologies may be designated by the Secretary as qualified anti-terrorism technologies under section 862(b) of the SAFETY Act (6 U.S.C. 441(b)) or certified by the Secretary under section 863(d) of such Act (6 U.S.C. 442(d)).

(b) COORDINATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) establish a formal coordination process that includes the official of the Department of Homeland Security with primary responsibility for the implementation of the SAFETY Act, the Chief Procurement Officer of the Department, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, the Under Secretary for Policy, and the Department of Homeland Security General Counsel to ensure the maximum application of the litigation and risk management provisions of the SAFETY Act to anti-terrorism technologies procured by the Department; and

(2) promote awareness and utilization of the litigation and risk management provisions of the SAFETY Act in the procurement of anti-terrorism technologies.

(c) ISSUANCE OF DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in accordance with the final rule implementing the SAFETY Act, issue a Departmental management directive providing for coordination between Department procurement officials and any other Department official responsible for implementing the SAFETY Act in advance of any Department procurement of an anti-terrorism technology, as required under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and to insert extraneous materials relating to the bill under consideration into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I introduced, the SAFETY Reform Act of 2007, which will help ensure that safe and effective antiterrorism technologies are being deployed by the Department of Homeland Security to bolster our security throughout the country.

□ 1330

The Support for Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002, or SAFETY Act as it is known, was designed to provide incentives for development and deployment of antiterrorism technologies.

The SAFETY Act was intended to address the liability concerns of businesses and to pave the way for innovative development of key antiterrorism technologies. Unfortunately, a lack of personnel within the Office of SAFETY Act Implementation, an excessively burdensome application process, and a lack of communication between the Department's procurement and management divisions made for difficult implementation of the SAFETY Act.

This legislation which I have introduced, along with Chairman THOMPSON, Subcommittee Ranking Member Rogers and many other members of the Homeland Security Committee, should fix many of those shortcomings.

Last year the Homeland Security Committee held a subcommittee hearing highlighting some of the problems that arose from the SAFETY Act's implementation. We heard from a variety of industry leaders and experts that the application process was overly burdensome, and that it took far too long for the Department of Homeland Security to properly evaluate and approve many of the applications that businesses submitted.